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Missionaries appointed in Jackson

RICHMOND, Va. (BP and local reports) — Tommy Reed (not his real name) was soaked to the bone. The 27-year-old missionary was caught in a torrential downpour as he rode his motorcycle to a Bible study in a remote Philippine village.

He found shelter under a thatched-roof shed and stumbled upon the woman who would one day become his church-planting partner — and his bride.

Reed and his wife were among 46 Southern Baptist missionaries appointed by trustees of the International Mission Board (IMB) in two services, May 6 at First Church, Jackson, and May 5 at Broadview Missionary Baptist Church in Broadview, IL.

The appointment services were the last for IMB President Jerry Rankin, a Mississippi native, before his retirement on July 31. Rankin and his wife Bobbye, both graduates of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, will reside in the Clinton area.

Tommy Reed's wife Karen (not her real name) remembers the rainy night when she met her future husband, now more than 20 years ago. The shed Reed stumbled into was owned by her family. They'd never befriended a foreigner, much less entertained an American in their home.

The Filipino family invited him inside anyway and since Tommy couldn't go to his Bible study, Karen's father asked him to share the Gospel with them instead.

Reed, a Tennessean who was working with another missions organization at the time, spent the next 16 months teaching the family about Jesus, eventually leading Karen, her mother, brother, and sister to Christ.

In 2006, Reed and Karen were married and are now heading to Southeast Asia to plant churches together.

Though the Reeds' romantically inspired tale is unusual, it shares a common thread with the stories of all new appointees in the sense that every missionary's call is unique.

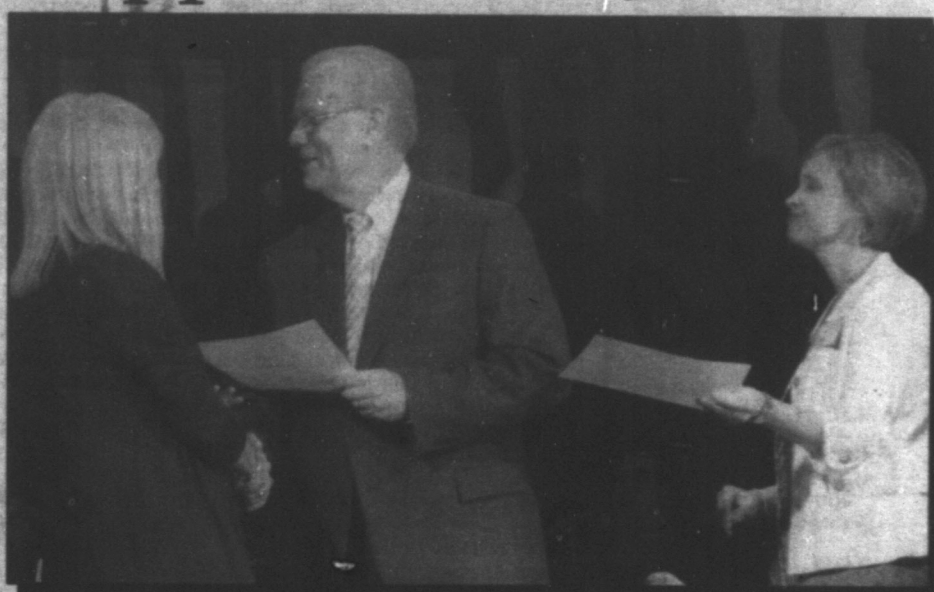
Shawn Smith (not his real name) remembers hearing God audibly confirm his calling to missions at age 18 while attending a youth camp.

"My Bible study leaders encouraged us to focus on prayer as a two-way conversation with God. One night, as we were singing, I was praying to God about my future," Smith says. "I told Him that I wanted to go to the mission field, but that I would not unless He led me there."

"I asked God if that was His will for me. Then I waited in silence. After some time passed, I heard an audible 'Yes.' Startled, I jumped up and looked around. Everyone was still singing. I realized that God had spoken."

Smith and his wife Elise (not her real name), along with their three children, are now bound for Central Asia.

As a preschooler in Taiwan, Lee Chen (not his real name) first heard the Gospel from American missionaries who visited his kindergarten. "They gave us candy, crackers, milk, and pencils. They also brought the love of Jesus," Chen says.



APPOINTED — International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin (center), participating in his final missionary appointment service before retirement, hands a commissioning certificate to an unidentified missionary (left) during the May 6 service at First Church, Jackson. Assisting Rankin was IMB trustee Vickie Mascagni, member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Those seeds finally began to grow when Chen turned 16 and was invited to church by one of his classmates. Thirty years later, Chen and his wife, Lucy (not her real name), working with another missions organization, became one of the first Chinese missionaries to South Africa.

Now the Chens are returning to their homeland to spread the Gospel in East Asia.

Amy Sweet (not her real name) remembers being laughed at when she told a room of accounting professionals interviewing her for a college scholarship that she wanted to use her "accounting skills to positively impact others," possibly by working for a nonprofit organization.

"This wasn't the first time I received this reaction, but it was what I desperately wanted to do," the 26-year-old Texas accountant says. "I began to pray, and God opened a door for me to impact lostness."

Sweet is now moving to South America to plant churches and serve with the IMB's finance department.

Church wasn't an option for Michael Kim (not his real name), whose parents strictly forbade him from attending the lone Presbyterian congregation in the South Korean town where he grew up. As the eldest son, he held the role of family priest, responsible for leading ancestor worship rituals.

He was drawn to Jesus nonetheless and became a believer at age 16, the first in 38 generations of his family. His new faith enraged his parents who beat him, threatened to disown him, and threw his Bibles into the fire. Kim eventually smuggled a Bible into his room and read secretly in bed, hiding under the sheets.

By the time he finished college, he'd read through the Bible seven times.

"In order for me to hear the Gospel, there was a long flow of blood, sweat and tears of Western missionaries to Korea," Kim says. "As a debtor of the Gospel, I am... heading to Southeast Asia to share the Good News of Jesus."

The services marked a milestone for Rankin, bringing the number to 101 he's been a part of during his 17 years as IMB president. In that time Rankin has seen more than 10,000 men and women sent out as Southern Baptist career and short-term missionaries.

"I want to thank you, Southern Baptists, because of your faithfulness in praying, from your heart for a lost world, for your faithful giving to the Cooperative Program [that] has enabled them to go in obedience to God's call," Rankin said.

He challenged the new missionaries to stay focused on their vision and passion for sharing the Gospel, something he found essential during 40 years with IMB.

"It's so easy [to get distracted] living in a foreign country where you get caught up in just surviving, taking care of your family and all of the bureaucracy and red tape and hassle of congested crowds," Rankin said.

Of the Apostle Paul, he noted, "Even though he was threatened, stoned, beaten, imprisoned, eventually martyred... [he] was undeterred because he had a passion for a lost world to know Jesus Christ as Savior. You're here tonight because you had a very distinct sense of God's call to the mission field."

Participating in the Jackson service were three IMB trustees from Mississippi: Keith Hartsill, member of First Church, Grenada; Rick Dunbar, member of First Church, Madison; and Vickie Mascagni, member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Day of Prayer held despite judge's ruling

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Tens of thousands of people gathered throughout the United States on May 6 to observe the National Day of Prayer, an annual event buffeted by an adverse court ruling this year.

"Prayer is the most powerful resource we have in this life; yet, many only turn to it as a last resort," Franklin Graham, honorary chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, wrote in a statement urging the nation to pray.

"When unbelievers pray for repentance of sin and ask for God's forgiveness, prayer is the spiritual dynamite that obliterates the darkness and despair of a sin-soaked soul," Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham, wrote. "For those who have already experienced the grace of Almighty God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, prayer becomes the catalyst for fellowship with the Lord of our souls, redeemed by His blood."

"By tapping into the channel by which we commune with the One who calls His children 'friends,' we can receive His strength in our weakness; His guidance in our steps; and His mercy when we stumble along life's path."

A National Day of Prayer observance was held on the south steps of the New Capitol in downtown Jackson.

President Obama issued a proclamation April 30 inviting Americans to give thanks, days after a federal judge in Wisconsin, appointed by Democratic former President

Jimmy Carter, ruled that a statute setting a day for the National Day of Prayer is unconstitutional, amounting to a governmental call for religious action.

"On this day, let us give thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon our nation," the president said. "Let us rejoice for the blessing of freedom both to believe and to live our beliefs, and for the many other freedoms and opportunities that bring us together as one nation. Let us ask for wisdom, compassion, and discernment of justice as we address the great challenges of our time."

Obama suggested prayer for those suffering from natural disasters in Haiti, Chile and elsewhere; the families of the West Virginia coal miners who died in April; members of the Armed Forces and their families; and the "unsung heroes" who struggle to build their communities and raise their families.

"I call upon the citizens of our nation to pray, or otherwise give thanks, in accordance with their own faiths and consciences, for our many freedoms and blessings, and I invite all people of faith to join me in asking for God's continued guidance, grace and protection as we meet the challenges before us," Obama said.

The White House decided to appeal the federal judge's opinion, giving supporters hope that the day may continue to receive the support of the nation's highest elected official.

Congress established the National Day of Prayer as an annual event in 1952, and in

1988 the law was amended to set the first Thursday of May for its observance. The law states, "The president shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups and as individuals."

Events this year included services at the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, on the steps of the Capitol and at the Pentagon, where Graham was disinclined to speak because of criticism over comments he made in the past about Islam.

Graham, who said he would still pray for the military apart from the official service, released a 2010 Prayer for the National Day of Prayer as a guide for those who wanted to participate. In it, he noted that President Lincoln proclaimed that the nation should set apart a day for a national prayer of repentance.

"We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our own hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own," Lincoln said. "... We have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us. It behooves us then — to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, spoke Thursday at a National Day of Prayer Breakfast at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland, Ky.

"John Adams said that 'Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other,'" Land said, adding that 61% of Americans say religion is very important in their lives.

Land shared an excerpt from the foreword by Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., in Land's book, *The Divided States of America*.

"It is folly to believe that in a nation where so many hold religious beliefs, that those same people won't bring to the public square the values their faith has taught them," Lieberman wrote.

"To try to separate America and its people from their faith in God and the values it engenders is an unnatural and unnecessary act."

Land said believers in America must pray for revival, awakening and reformation.

"Roger Williams talked about a wall to protect the garden of the church from the wilderness of the state. The courts have tried to turn this on its head," Land said. "The garden wall that was designed to protect the church has been turned into a prison wall to keep people of faith out of the public square. The only way they can get away with that is if we let them."

In addition to events around the country, a national prayer call was available from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. May 6. Those who wanted to participate could join a conference call with anywhere from two to 96 people to pray for the nation. Also, the national observance in Washington was streamed live.

Meanwhile, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty released a statement saying the president's proclamation of a National Day of Prayer is misguided and unnecessary.

"The government shouldn't be in the business of telling the American people what, where or when to pray or even if they should pray," K. Hollyn Hollman, BJC general counsel, said in a news release May 5.

"... There is nothing wrong with the American people getting together to pray on a designated day, even public officials," Hollman said. "In fact every day should be a day of national prayer. The problem with the National Day of Prayer is that it is an official act of the government urging citizens to engage in a religious exercise."

The Baptist Joint Committee often is aligned with other liberal groups such as The Interfaith Alliance and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. The Southern Baptist Convention separated itself from BJC several years ago.

Though Obama proclaimed this year's observance, he did not announce plans to participate in any events. Last year, for the first time in eight years, the White House did not host a public ceremony marking the day.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Gay comic announced

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Archie Comics, one of the most successful and longest running brands in the history of the comic industry, will introduce its first homosexual character this fall. Kevin Keller will be added to the Veronica storyline in September as a new student at Riverdale High, Archie Comics announced in April. "The introduction of Kevin is just about keeping the world of Archie Comics current and inclusive," Jon Goldwater, Archie's CEO, said. "Archie's hometown of Riverdale has always been a safe world for everyone. It just makes sense to have an openly gay character in Archie comic books." In the full-issue story, *Isn't It Romantic?*, Kevin arrives as the new hunk in town, an Archie news release said, and Veronica immediately sets her sights on him. "Mayhem and hilarity ensue as Kevin desperately attempts to let Veronica down easy and her flirtations only become increasingly persistent," the news release said. Finally, Kevin tells Jughead, "It's nothing against her. I'm gay." The Washington Post noted that with some comics, the introduction of a homosexual character would not qualify as news. "But in the less-diverse world of Riverdale — where everything but the sundaes has often been vanilla — this registers as a major shift," The Post said. Archie Comics, which include Sabrina the Teenage Witch and Josie and the Pussycats, have sold 1.5 billion comics and are published in a dozen different languages and distributed worldwide, the company said. Over the years, the comics have become part of popular culture, with Archie Comics being the most downloaded comics on iTunes. The company also has achieved a No. 4 ranking among iPad book apps, the news release said. "The introduction of Kevin as an openly gay character is part of the commitment to keep Archie properties reflective of the current world of teens and teen media," the company said.

Looking back

10 years ago

A total of 164 people are saved during a five-day crusade held Apr. 30-May 4, under a tent on the property of Copiah Association east of Hazlehurst, according to John McBride, local director of missions.

20 years ago

Mississippi native Morris Chapman of Texas visits Jackson, promoting his candidacy for president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He speaks of "enlarging the tent" of the conservative movement to include any Southern Baptist who will declare the Bible to be inerrant and infallible.

50 years ago

The circulation of *The Baptist Record* hits 92,000, a new all-time high.



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A Cooperative Program primer

The just-released Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report has certainly generated a lot of buzz around Mississippi. The Task Force was appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt and charged with no less a responsibility than finding a way to position the convention to achieve our Lord and Savior's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) as soon in the 21st century as possible.

Along with many good concepts listed in the report, which can be downloaded and read in its entirety at www.Pray4GCR.com, is a proposal to expand the definition of giving to SBC causes to include outside funding of missions endeavors by churches.

For example, a church could choose to fund a missionary to be sent to the field by the church — which is the church's right under our Baptist system of governance, of course, but currently that funding is not counted as giving to the Cooperative Program. The new proposal, called Great Commission Giving, would allow such outside funding to be counted along with

Cooperative Program dollars which go to fund larger Southern Baptist causes such as seminaries and missions boards.

Supporters contend that all giving to any type of Southern Baptist work, such as the example in the previous paragraph, should be counted as gifts to the SBC. Gifts to the Cooperative Program would be a "component" of Great Commission giving, according to R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., member of the task force, and one of the principal authors of the task force's final report.

Reducing the Cooperative Program to a simple line item in the Great Commission Giving spreadsheet has raised concerns. Morris Chapman, a native of Kosciusko and president of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, is one of those expressing unease with the proposal.

The task force's final report "elevates designated contributions" to mean the same in terms of cooperation as "contributions made to the whole" of Southern Baptist work through the Cooperative Program, according to a white paper released by Chapman, a graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

As the debate heats up prior to and during the report's presentation to messengers at the SBC annual meeting in Orlando this June, it would help to have a general understanding of the Cooperative Program that eludes so many of us. We know that we give to our churches, but where does the money go after that?

Under the Cooperative Program concept, local churches collect gifts from church members and retain a portion of those gifts to fund the work of that church. This includes everything from light bulbs and parking lot pavement to church staff salaries and youth mission trips. The portion the church retains is determined by the church itself.

After the church retains a portion for its work, the remainder of the gifts is forwarded to the state convention with which the local church is affiliated (in our case, the Mississippi Baptist Convention).

The state convention accepts the gifts from local churches and retains a portion for statewide work supporting local church missions, such as youth summer camping, Bible Drill, the Christian Action Commission, and Baptist Student Unions on our college and university campuses. That portion is determined by messengers to the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

After the state convention retains a portion of gifts for its work, the remainder of the money is forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention, which uses their share to fund such programs as the International Mission Board, the convention's seminaries, and SBC campgrounds like Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. How the SBC spends its share is determined by messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

This simple funding formula has been blessed by God to the point that the Cooperative Program has become the most effective and far-reaching mechanism for missions funding known to the Protestant world — and that's no exaggeration. Southern Baptists' faithful giving has been multiplied many times over for the cause of Christ, at home and all around the globe.

As we debate the future of the Cooperative Program in coming weeks, it would help to have an even deeper understanding of the issues at hand. May we study hard, be informed, and speak the truth in love. Those steps would go a long way toward showing a lost world what it really means to be a Christian.



What is it about spring that drives a mom to cleaning, organizing, and general home maintenance? Perhaps it is the desire for a fresh start after a dark winter, or it could be the longing for our homes to be as bright and carefree as the world around us.

Recently, I found myself armed with drop cloths, brushes, and a stepladder as I tended to some much-needed interior painting. While I worked, I listened to a talk show on Christian radio. "I feel like I'm not doing anything for God!" moaned one mom who called in. "I'm just stuck here at home with four kids, wiping noses and doing laundry. Nothing I am doing is making a difference for God."

I nearly fell off the stepladder! How could this dear woman think that being a mom was not making a difference for God? Mothers make a Kingdom difference, every day. At first glance, wiping noses, doing laundry and even painting a bathroom are tasks that may not seem to make a huge difference, compared to the work of a missionary or a minister.

Do not be deceived! Every mom has a mission field, a ministry platform, and multiple outreach opportunities.

GUEST OPINION:



Is your home a mission field?

By Rebecca Ingram Powell
Nashville

• Moms have a mission field. Where do people get the idea that missions is a glamorous job? My friend Mary just completed her first year of serving as a missionary teacher to Palestinian children in Jerusalem. She went overseas to wipe noses and dry tears, something that moms do every day. Mary says, "Your mission field is the next lost person you see."

That little person asking for juice or needing a diaper change is your mission field.

• Moms have a ministry platform. Candidates want the votes of the soccer moms. Most books are written to a female audience. Advertising caters to women. Moms have a platform, and the world has noticed. Just like a pastor who takes on the challenges of the pulpit every Sunday, mothers take on the

challenges of the breakfast table, the carpool, and the PTA.

Are you speaking with wisdom? Is faithful instruction on your tongue? Because you are the mom, you have your children's attention. Because you are a mom, you have a voice that needs to be heard.

• Moms have multiple outreach opportunities. Birthday parties. School field trips. Team sports. Church activities. Do you see the potential for building relationships? Your house serves as a mission outpost for every friend your child brings home. Your kitchen table can serve up love from a heart that genuinely cares for others. Your desk at work can radiate God's love with a framed verse of Scripture, a dish of candy to share, and your own big smile.

Even your car can serve the

Lord. When it is your turn to carpool, be sure your car is clean and comfortable, and play Christian music to create an atmosphere that both kids and adults will immediately recognize as different.

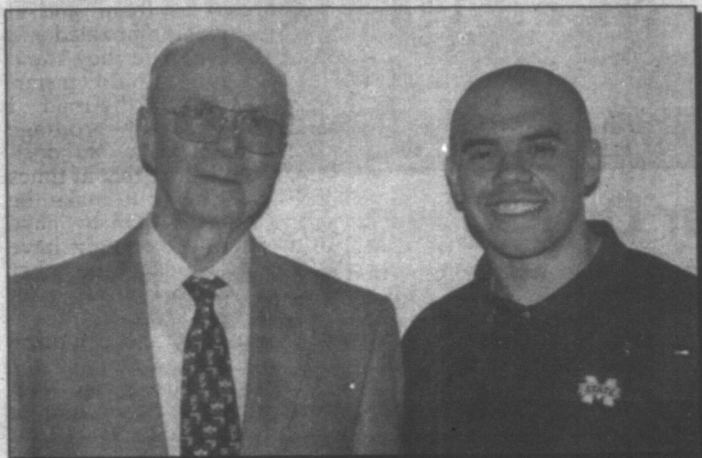
How can we look at our daily lives as being anything less than missional? Are you viewing the role of motherhood from the right perspective? Missionaries make their mark by living among and working with the people. They make a difference by their love. In the same way, even a pastor cannot make a difference unless his congregation has seen his life, and his actions have proven him to be real.

Perhaps your attitude could use some spring cleaning. Get rid of the clutter of wrong thinking. You are Christ's hands and feet. You are making a difference because you are investing your life, your love, and your gifts in the eternal souls of the children around you.

You are right where you are supposed to be, Mom. Wake up to your mission field!

Powell is a pastor's wife, mother of three, conference speaker, and the author of several books. Learn more at www.MomSeriously.com. Her commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

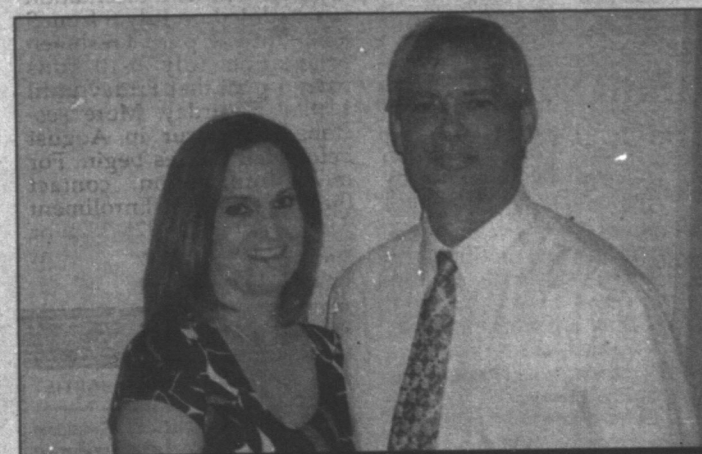
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Arnold and Lee



2. Christian Women's Job Corps, McComb



3. The Robersons



4. The Moaks

1. First Church, Vicksburg, heard a testimony by Mississippi State University's 2009-10 quarterback Tyson Lee Mar. 26. Shown are Lee and James D. (Pat) Arnold, who played football for MSU in 1941-42 and 1946-47.

2. The Christian Women's Job Corps of McComb held its second commencement exercise Apr. 15 at the Pike County Association building. Erica Dawson, LaWanda Brumfield-Robinson, Myrtis Snipes, and Janice Tobias received diplomas for successfully completing two 10-week semesters. Shown are the graduates and mentors. From left, Ginger Chappell, Robinson, Sandy Tremaine, Snipes, Tobias, Glenda Womack, Dawson, and Tammy Martin (Pike Association).

3. First Church, Chicora, honored pastor David Roberson and his wife Kathy for 15 years of service. The Robersons have three sons, Kyle, Cory, and Seth. Shown are the Robersons.

4. Calvary Church, Columbia, celebrated the one year anniversary of pastor Millard Moak Apr. 25. Shown are Melinda Moak and Moak.

5. Pastor Earl Clark, First Church, Morton, was presented a matted, framed print from the congregation from the Scott County Times recognizing him as one of the outstanding citizens of Scott County on Apr. 11.

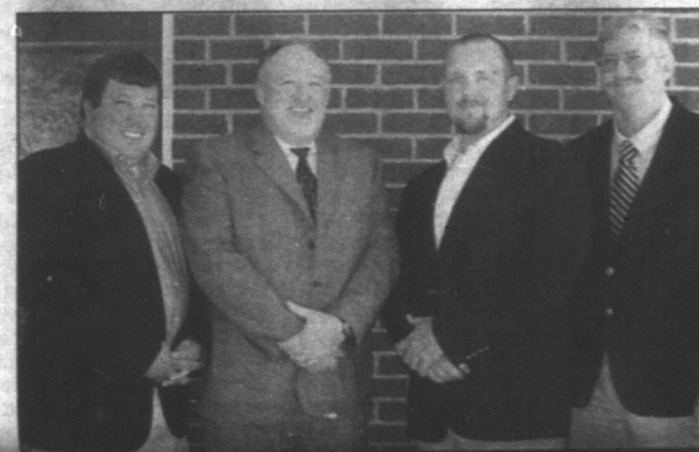
6. New Zion Church, Walnut Grove, ordained Neal Ogletree, Chris McDill, and Larry Perkins as deacons Apr. 11. Shown are Ogletree, pastor Timmy Fanguy, McDill, and Perkins.

7. Highland Church, Meridan, ordained Greg Mangum, minister of music and youth, Rolling Creek Church, Clarke County, May 2. Shown are Highland pastor Carl White, Mangum, and Rolling Creek pastor Ronnie Cooper.

8. Faith Church, Oxford, had its high attendance day Mar. 28. The church exceeded its attendance goal of 100 with a total of 109 for the morning service. As a result, pastor Gregory A. Davis had to shave his head. Shown is Davis.



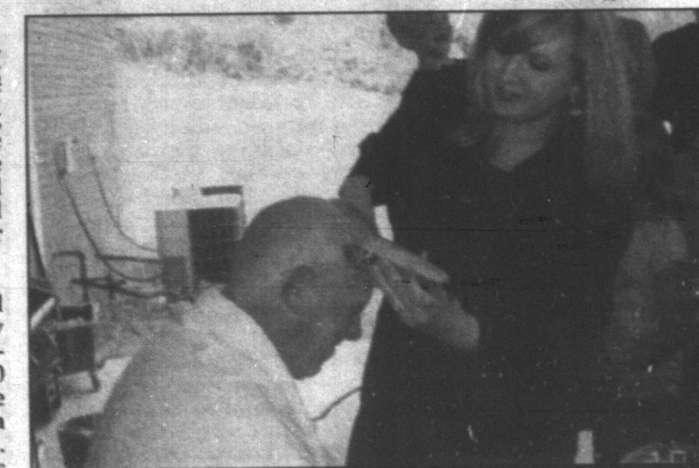
5. Clark



6. New Zion Church, Walnut Grove



7. White, Mangum, and Cooper



8. Faith Church, Oxford

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ZIMOZCIL, MSI DIYDBI
NBFLBR ZIAGIWIL SGX:
EYZ MSIR TIZI FBB TFG-
MGCN EYZ SGX.

BOVI IGNSM: EYZMR

Clue: R = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Six: Mark Three: Twenty-Nine

THE FORK IN THE ROAD

Years ago a wise old fellow in my church said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take one." I saw some brilliance in what he was saying but the longer I live the more brilliant he has become. For every one of us every day is filled with fork-in-the-road moments. Regardless of who or where you are, you are involved in decision-making. With every decision, you are turning toward a direction and at the same time, you are turning away from a direction. One philosophy simply expresses that is what life is. It is an accumulation of decisions going to the right or the left at the fork in the road. So how do you go about deciding which fork to take? Three little words might be helpful as you face the forks today.

The first word is "ask." Isn't it amazing that God recognizes the dilemma we may live in and the things that we may be facing? In that great instruction about prayer, Jesus said pray and say, "Lead us." He does not just throw us out on the roads of life and say, "Do the best you can." Rather, He encourages us to look to Him and to ask. As you may know, most men and some women prefer not to ask for directions. Through the years, I have gotten better at it but at one point, my theory was if you have gas in the tank, you are not lost. Again, in His great teaching on prayer in Matthew 7, Jesus said, "Ask and it shall be given unto you." God will guide you if in confidence and faith you ask Him.

The second word I would give you is "assess." In making decisions, there are a lot of things that need to be taken into account and the best thing is to accumulate all of the information that is available to you and then make a decision as to what you will do and where you need to go. At times, you just do not seem to have enough information. At times, the direction you think you need to go is not the direction that you can go. You know you want to get from point A to



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

point B, but you are not sure which direction will get you there in the most appropriate manner.

More and more across our land, here in our state, and especially in cities and towns, we are seeing roads that are built where they put in a roundabout. I think these things come from overseas and I know that there are many of them in England and some in Washington, DC. Now they are being put everywhere. Of course, the thinking is that it will keep the flow of traffic moving and people can come into the roundabout, get off where they need to, and go where they need to go. It sounds like a great idea, but for people who are not familiar with the roundabouts, they can get extremely puzzled.

The other day as I was driving into a roundabout, a driver in front of me was stopped at the yield sign. There was no one coming and this driver obviously just wanted to turn left and go down the road that was headed in the direction that they wanted to go. The problem was that you had to turn right and drive around the roundabout in order to go left. Do you follow me? Apparently, the driver had never been in this situation and he did not know where to turn. I wanted to help but I had no appropriate words programmed into my car horn that would say, "It's okay. Just go to the right and then go that direction." So I sat there and sat there because the driver in front of me sat there and sat there. Finally, the driver figured out what needed to be done. You could just see the assessment taking place. We have all been there and if possible, we need to assess where we are supposed to go and when.

The third word that is vital is "act." Here is an interesting thing about forks in the road: There are people who ask and assess, and then think that's the end of the process. I suppose all of us at times get stuck in an assessment mode and spend so much time and energy analyzing something that we actually think that we did something because we spent so much effort. However, there is a moment after you ask and God guides you in making an assessment of what needs to be done that you have to act. Someone described this lack of action as being like the man who went out hunting. When he saw the game, he took his rifle and it was ready, aim, and, of course, the next step should be fire. For this guy, his continuous process was ready - aim, ready - aim, ready - aim, and he never got to the action moment.

If you watch carefully, you will see a lot of people on the road of life who are standing at the fork of a road looking left, looking right, watching other people pass by them, and at times just looking puzzled and bewildered. There they stand from sun up to sun down staring at the fork in the road. I certainly would not encourage anyone to make a bad decision, but it is true that at times it is almost better to make the wrong decision than to make no decision. You might have to back up and go the other way, but you cannot stay indecisive forever and ever. It will drive you crazy and you obviously will go nowhere.

Putting it all together, keep in mind that if you ask the Lord, He will guide you. If you think it through the best you can with what gray matter the Lord has given you and with the information you have at hand, then you can act. By His grace and step by step in His love, you can move forward.

So today, when you come to a fork in the road, take it!

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Tenth District Chancery Court Judge James Thomas Jr. will address graduates receiving master degrees at William Carey University May 14 at 7 p.m. in Smith Auditorium.

2. Orientation programs this summer will attract hundreds of incoming freshmen, transfer students and parents to Mississippi College. The first two sessions June 3-4 on the Clinton campus will be followed by evening visits to Trustmark Park in Pearl to see Mississippi Braves baseball games. The sessions begin with transfer orientation from 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.

on June 3. Freshmen orientation will run from 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. on June 4. Among other key dates: there will be freshmen orientation June 18-19 from 6 p.m. that Friday until 1 p.m. Saturday. Transfer student orientation is scheduled on July 8 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Freshmen orientation July 9-10 runs from 6 p.m. that Friday until 1 p.m. Saturday. More sessions will occur in August before fall classes begin. For more information, contact the MC Office of Enrollment Services at (601) 925-3800 or Kyle Brantley at brantley@mc.edu.

MS POSITIONS

MORRISON CHAPEL BAPTIST Church, Cleveland, Mississippi is seeking an Associate/Youth Pastor. Candidate should be passionate about introducing youth to Jesus Christ and helping them develop and grow. MCBC is currently building a new sanctuary increasing capacity from 200-400. Submit resume to: Brad Keeton 501 South Lefflore, Cleveland, MS 38732. bradkeeton@bellsouth.net

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FBC, BYHALIA, MS, A SOUTHERN Baptist congregation in the greater Memphis area, is seeking F/T Pastor with seminary degree and 5 yrs. Pastoral experience. Resumes will be accepted thru May 31. Send to FBC Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 246, Byhalia, MS, 38611.

FBC FLORA IS SEEKING A P/T Children's Minister. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 163, Flora, MS 39071 Or E-mail to jcole@fbcflora.org

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CARROLL BAPTIST CHURCH, WALKER, LA is now receiving resumes for pastor. Please send them to P.O. Box 222, Walker, LA 70785 and to the attention of the Pastor Search Team. Cut-off date is May 31st. If you have any questions give me a call at (225) 936-0200. I am serving as the transitional Pastor at this time. Thanks!

TWO ORLANDO CONDOS AVAILABLE for June 4-11. Both are two-bedrooms (sleep 4-6) at Calypso Cay Resort (calypsocay.com), 7 nights, have kitchens and are only \$1000.00 each. Call Allen @ 601-527-2829.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



15. Cedar Grove Church, Columbia



16. Slayden Church, Lamar



17. Plainway Church, Laurel



18. Cain recognition



1. Holcomb Church, Holcomb, will host Good Times Express in concert May 30, 5 p.m., followed by hamburgers at 6. A love offering will be received.

2. Cornersville Church, Potts Camp, will celebrate Joe Epting's 50th year of pastoring churches May 15, 2 p.m., with a reception following.

3. Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, will offer Vacation Bible School June 7-11, 6-9 p.m. Roundup June 4, 4-6 p.m.; commencement, Fri., 6 p.m.

4. Antioch Church, Brandon: Vacation Bible School, June 6-10, 6-9 p.m. Commencement June 11, 6 p.m.

5. Pastor Ken White of New Prospect Church, Oxford, was presented a certificate by Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, recognizing the church's 100 year anniversary Apr. 25.

6. Puckett Church, Puckett, is hosting its 2nd annual ladies' night out May 15, 6 p.m. Door prizes, refreshments, and childcare provided. Becky Brown, Little Brown Light Ministries, speaker.

7. Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora, will have a memorial service May 16, 11 a.m. Archie England, speaker.

8. Montgomery Church, Summit, is hosting the Southern Plainsmen in concert May 30, 6 p.m.

9. New Life Fellowship, Oakland, is hosting the Master's Quartet in concert May 15, 7 p.m.

10. Harrisville Church, Harrisville, is hosting The Perrys in concert May 16, 5:30 p.m. A love offering will be received.

11. Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, will offer Vacation Bible School June 7-11, 6-8:30 p.m.

12. First Church, Satartia, and Satartia Methodist Church will present the Satartia Fellowship Rally

May 22, 11 a.m., with door prizes, silent auction, food, singing, and fellowship, in the lot between the two churches.

13. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing featuring the Ricky and Cheryl Martin Family at 6 p.m., preceded by a youth dinner at 5.

14. Faith Church, Charleston, will be hosting a fish fry and singing June 5, beginning at 3 p.m. The church will provide fish and hushpuppies; attendees should bring a covered dish along with non-perishable food items and/or cash donations for the Tallahatchie County Food Bank.

15. Cedar Grove Church, Columbia, held an Easter egg hunt Apr. 3. Shown are the participants.

16. Slayden Church, Lamar, sent a mission team to Yazoo City. Shown are the participants.

17. Plainway Church, Laurel, celebrated its 60th anniversary Apr. 4. Plaques of recognition for

outstanding service were presented to Walter "Butch" Moyer, Arnold "Red" Jones, and Janise Jones.

18. County Line Church, Dossville, honored Linda Cain upon her retirement after 16 years of service as secretary/treasurer. Shown are Scott Cockroft, Cain, and Robert Magee.

19. Parkway Church, Hernando, recently experienced revival with 39 decisions with 20 baptisms. Shown is pastor Mike Ramage with several of the baptismal candidates.

20. Navilla Church, McComb, had a group of 24 to participate in the recent GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) program Mar. 20, with a prayer walk/drive by of over 600 homes. On Mar. 27, the group distributed church literature and invitations to the church's Easter services. Shown are the participants.

21. Temple Church, Myrtle: Revival, May 16-19; Sun, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Skinner, speaker; Donnie Schuman, pastor.



19. Parkway Church, Hernando



20. Navilla Church, McComb

The Yazoo Clay of Our Day

By Rob Chambers
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.

Whenever someone plans on building a house, the design and type of materials are always considered, but the foundation is always where the building begins.

The Bible talks about the foundation of a house and its correlation to one's spiritual house. The quality of a spiritual house depends on the spiritual foundation. If one has a bad foundation they will have a house with structural problems.

In Mississippi many house foundations have been built on a type of soil called Yazoo clay. Yazoo clay has a distinctive, yet destructive, property of expanding and contracting by as much as 200%. The higher the moisture content the more it expands and vice versa. One can imagine, and many can testify, the destructive nature of Yazoo clay has on homes in Mississippi.

This clay can cause unforeseen problems in the structure of a house. When the conditions are right the clay will expand and contract causing floors to buckle, walls to crack and the roof to leak.

Scripture uses a building and foundation analogy throughout. In passages



Chambers

righteousness if one builds their spiritual house on anyone other than Christ.

The substitute foundation the world offers are ideas, like Yazoo clay, that are destructive to one's spiritual house because it is untrustworthy and unpredictable. These ideas have their footing or root in unbelief in God. From the world's foundation stem many ungodly ideas like same-sex marriage, sexual promiscuity, abortion, etc. Biblical families are confronted with such issues and are pressured to accept what is ungodly as normal or permissible. What is causing much of this pressure is the not so

like Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 28:16, Matthew 21:42 and 1 Peter 2:4-8, the inspired writers have communicated that Jesus is the cornerstone or the essential building block upon which all righteousness and godliness is built. There is no hope of

subtle indoctrination of evolution in our public, teaching institutions.

Evolution is the Yazoo clay of our day.

In 1859, Charles Darwin made the idea of evolution popular through the publication of his book "The Origin of Species." Darwin sought to explain where life came from without pointing to God. His theory has become the government's official "creation story."

It may appear trivial to draw such a drastic conclusion from teaching evolution in our public schools, but as generation after generation after generation is taught that God does not exist and God did not create as Genesis 1:1 states, then the idea of Biblical morality will cease to exist in the minds and hearts of many. These children will become educated influencers in our society and have the tendency to shape immoral social and public policy.

This is exactly what we have today. This ungodly idea has infected our educational system and propagated within the adult society just like a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.

Evolution teaches that same-sex marriage is a social norm and should not only be socially accepted but also legally protected. Evolutionists also say that

abortion is a means whereby females participate in the evolutionary process by aborting babies considered less fit for survival or a healthy life. Also, sexual immorality is perfectly normal to evolutionary theory because there is no source of moral authority, like God or the Bible, to say sex outside of marriage is wrong.

Mississippi public schools, colleges and universities have biology departments committed to teaching the government's account of creation and how morality is subject to the will of society, not God and the Bible.

Thankfully, within our state we have Baptist schools and colleges that are committed to teaching the Christian doctrine of creation. The church, however, must not rely simply on teaching what is right and wrong but also focus on engaging the world with prayer for the lost, practicing the life of Christ and proclaiming the Gospel message of faith and repentance. If individual Christians do this, the saved will be revived, the lost will be awakened unto salvation, and society will be reformed with values that honor God.

The author can be contacted at 601-292-3329 or at rchambers@christianaction.com.

Chapman issues opinion on Great Commission Resurgence report

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Mississippi native Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, released a white paper on May 7 entitled, "What's in a name? The Cooperative Program and Great Commission Giving," that expresses nine "grave concerns" about how the Great

Commission Resurgence Task Force (GCRTF) new category of giving, Great Commission Giving, will impact the Cooperative Program (CP).

The full text of Chapman's white paper may be read at <http://baptist2baptist.net/gcr/articles/MHC-05-07-10.asp>.

Chapman said the task force has given "lip service" in praising the Cooperative Program because its final report "takes away with the left hand what it affirms with the right." The task force "elevates designated contributions" to mean the same in terms of cooperation as "contributions made to the whole" of Southern Baptist



Chapman

work through the Cooperative Program, he said.

Moreover, Chapman challenged those who agree with his concerns to attend the annual meeting "as a messenger from your church" and oppose the recommendation to create the new nomenclature and category of giving.

Mississippi Baptists were not represented on the task force, which was appointed by SBC President Johnny Hunt.

Chapman said the GCRTF proposal makes the Cooperative Program "just another component of a conglomerate category" and that this devalues the Cooperative Program and also leads to devaluation of the Cooperative Program name.

Cooperative missions and ministries are what define Southern Baptists, not what individual congregations do alone, Chapman said. Calling the Cooperative Program a "brand" known by Christians around the world, he said the

Cooperative Program not only provides support for SBC missions and ministries, but that "the name and methodology historically have defined Southern Baptists as cooperating for the Great Commission."

"[T]he Cooperative Program is our Great Commission Giving!" he wrote.

"Sadly, the 'bait' of 'Great Commission Giving' will lure unwary Southern Baptists to 'switch' from cooperating with the whole of our missions and ministries," he wrote, adding that this would lead to "a revival of the old Independent Baptist model of societal giving."

He also said the switch to the new terminology and emphasis would cause churches already giving low percentages through the Cooperative Program to give even less through CP.

"They certainly would not be motivated by the new giving category to give more through the Cooperative Program," Chapman wrote. In effect, he said, the new category creates a new metric for measuring participation in the convention (Concern 3). "If the GCRTF is as serious as it says it is about retaining the primacy of the Cooperative Program," he

wrote, "it would seem logical not to create any new category of support that would threaten to displace Cooperative Program as the metric of participation in the Convention."

Chapman said he had biblical concerns about the task force's position that churches need the motivation of receiving "greater recognition for designated gifts..."

"It seems an odd contradiction to propose a giving model that is based on receiving recognition (Matthew 6:1-8)," Chapman wrote.

"It also seems oddly contradictory to give more recognition to those who are less cooperative in their giving than those who are more cooperative (see 2 Samuel 24 and 2 Corinthians 8)," he added. "Our greatest successes for God's Kingdom have come when we worked together cooperatively."

Chapman expressed his Concern 5, "Mere Reallocation Creates No New Money," in terms of what he called a "glaring omission."

The final report "calls on individual donors to quadruple their average contributions ... to their churches" ... "state conventions to increase to 50% the per-

centage of Cooperative Program receipts they forward to the SBC" ... "asks the Convention to set a goal of breaking the '50% barrier' of the CP Allocation Budget to the IMB" ... "But, amazingly, nowhere in the report are churches asked to set a giving goal for their contributions through the Cooperative Program," he wrote.

Chapman also expressed disappointment that while the GCRTF set goals for both Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong special offerings (\$200 million and \$100 million annually, respectively, by 2015), the task force report "failed to set financial goals" for annual contributions through the Cooperative Program for the whole of Southern Baptist work.

Chapman concluded his white paper by saying he felt "compelled to write about the dangers" he sees in the GCRTF proposal. "The proposal to introduce the nomenclature of 'Great Commission Giving' appears at first glance to be innocuous," he said. "It is anything but."

"How disheartening it would be if eighty-five years of cooperative efforts were to come to a screeching halt at the Convention in Orlando because of a single vote!" he said.

BIBLE DRILLS



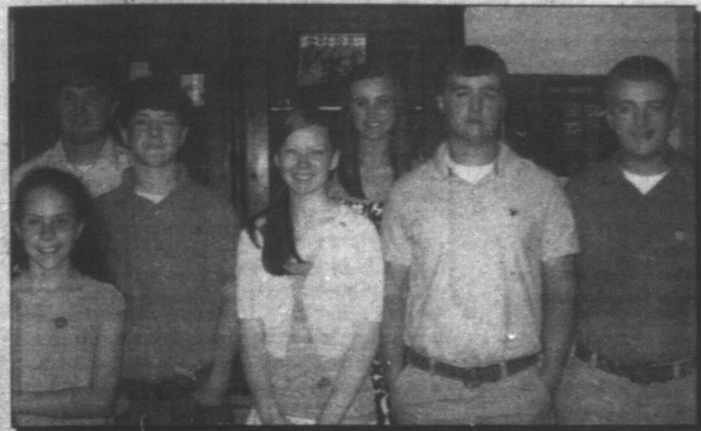
6. Covenant Church, Green County

6. **Covenant Church, Green County**, recognizes its Bible drillers: top to bottom, Carey McLain, Mason McLain, Aleshia Washington, Briana Becker, and Jeremiah Becker.

7. **Walthall Church, Webster Association**, recognizes its Bible drillers and speaker's tournament participants.

8. **Liberty Church, Flowood**, recognizes its children's and youth Bible drillers.

9. **Indian Springs Church, Laurel**, recognizes its Bible drillers.



7. Walthall Church, Webster Association



8. Liberty Church, Flowood



9. Indian Springs Church, Laurel

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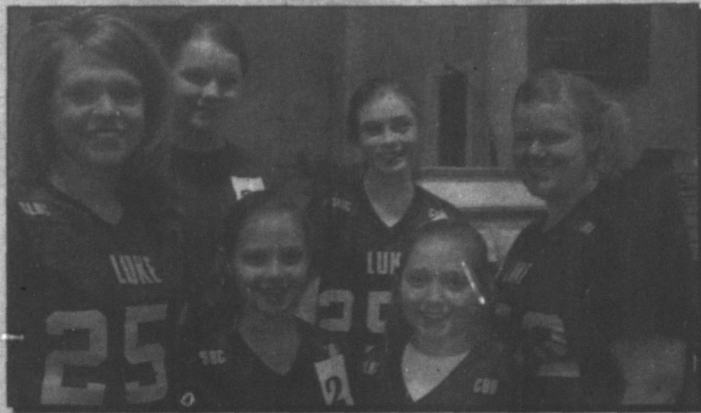
2. Mississippi Association



3. Rocky Point Church, Carthage



1. **Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia**, recognizes its youth Bible drillers Haley Pierce, Regan Pierce, and nine-year participant Bethany Flake.
2. **Mississippi Association** recognizes its children and youth Bible drill participants.
3. **Rocky Point Church, Carthage**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Cody Jenkins, Hunter Grundy, Cole Williams, Jenna Purvis, Morgan Cain, Hanna Kuntz, Tucker Cain, Anna Rushing, Kaylia Jenkins, and Nick Jenkins.
4. **South Louisville Church, Louisville** recognizes its Bible drillers. Children: Bridget McLendon, leader; Kallie Parks, Allayna Lovorn, Emily Davis, leader; back row, Carley Puckett and Brittany Jaudon. Youth: Erik Davis, Jenna Lovorn, Brandon Hemphill; back row, Nicholas Davis and Zachary Allen.
5. **Oral Church, Sumrall** recognizes its Bible drillers. Back row: Pastor Johnny Martin, Maranda Hutson, Brett Cole, Eric Bennett, and Nate Hutson; front row: Hanna Hutson, Grace Hutson, and leader Billie Ruth Barrett.



4a. South Louisville Church, Louisville, children



4b. South Louisville Church, Louisville, youth



5. Oral Church, Sumrall

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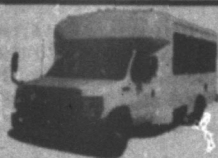
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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Friendship East Church, Charleston**: 150th anniversary, June 6; meet and greet with donuts and coffee, 9 a.m.; services, 10 a.m., followed by catered lunch; Harvey Donaldson, speaker.
2. **First Church, Boyle**: Homecoming, May 30, 9 a.m., followed by noon potluck meal; Boundless Love and others, entertainment; Mike Carr, pastor.
3. **Ackerman Church, Ackerman**: 125th anniversary and homecoming, May 23; services, 10 a.m., followed by noon potluck meal.
4. **Bethel Church, Oxberry**: Homecoming, May 30; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and local entertainment.
5. **Bellevue Church, Pontotoc County**: Homecoming and revival, May 16 - 19; Sun., services 11 a.m., followed by dinner, fellowship, and afternoon singing; Mon. - Wed. 7 p.m.; Lee Graham, speaker; Tommy Inmon, pastor.
6. **Antioch Church, Monticello**: 150th anniversary and homecoming, May 23; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; services 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Jim Futral and Archie Herring, speakers.
7. **Grandview Church, Pearl**: 50th anniversary, June 27; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch.
8. **Causeyville Church, Meridian**: Homecoming, May 16; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Harold Scott, speaker; Chris Lee, music.



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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE To Love and To Cherish

Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Peter 3:7

By Marion D. Duncan

The Jews held a woman in very low esteem as seen in her becoming a possession of her husband when she married—his to do with whatever he desired. In theory, the Jew had the highest ideal of marriage. In reality, however, a husband could divorce his wife for any cause; a wife could divorce her husband for no cause, except if he were a leper or an apostate. In the time of the coming of Christianity, the marriage bond was in great peril. Young Jewish girls were refusing to marry because of the uncertainty of the position of a wife.

The situation was worse in the Greek world where prostitution was an essential part of Greek life. The husband expected his wife to manage his home, take care of his legitimate children, but he found

his pleasure and companionship elsewhere.

By the time of Paul, Roman family life was wrecked. The atmosphere of the ancient world was permeated by infidelity and adulterous relationships, sometimes under the guise of religion.

No one in the world owes more to Christ than women. This lovely passage on the relationship of husband and wife was to "call men and women to a new fidelity and a new purity and a new fellowship in the married life... It is impossible to exaggerate the cleansing effect that Christianity had on ordinary everyday home life in the ancient world." (The Letters to the ... Ephesians, by William Barclay)

Paul stressed living in harmony with one another as the basis for Ephesians 5:21—"Submit to one another out of



Duncan

reference for Christ." "Submission has nothing to do with the order of authority, but rather governs the operation of authority—how it is given and received." (Be Rich, by Warren W. Wiersbe)

Jesus taught His disciples the principle of submission when He washed their feet demonstrating the use of His authority to build up other people. He, also, taught deeming others more important than oneself, seeking the best for them. (Romans 12:10, Philippians 2:1-4)

From this frame of reference, Paul continued his teaching concerning the husband-wife relationship by comparing it with that of Christ and His church—His bride. Paul told Christian wives to submit to their Christian husbands as unto the Lord. Submission is the natural response and a joy when the husband makes Christ's love (caring and cherishing) for the Church the pattern for loving his wife.

In the beginning (Genesis 2:20b-24), God created man and gave him dominion over creation with the responsibility of using it wisely and caring for it. When God saw it was not good for man to be alone, He made woman from man to be his helpmeet—his wife, his completion. The husband was established by God as the head or leader of the home beginning with Adam. This does not speak of greater or lesser value or importance. It addresses the role God intended in His divine plan for each marriage partner. If both husband and wife are committed to the leadership of the Lord, and since husbands are answerable to God for their leadership in the home, then nothing could be sweeter than living under the leadership of a husband who is charged with the responsibility of the well-being and edification of his wife, marriage, and home. "... the two will become one flesh... each of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (5:29, 33)

Peter addressed the Christian's responsibility to the

state, his employer, and obligations in the home. He was primarily concerned about married women who had recently been converted and whose husbands were unsympathetic to the gospel. The scriptural answer for this situation is for the wife to live the gospel so convincingly that her unbelieving husband will seek salvation from her example. "By the silent preaching of the loveliness of her life she must break down the barriers of prejudice and hostility, and win her husband for her new Master." She must be submissive (exhibit voluntary selflessness); she must be pure (have chastity and fidelity); she must be reverent (live as in the presence of Christ)." (Barclay)

Husbands obligations to wives are to be understanding (show consideration, sensitivity), chivalrous (be courteous, pay honor to a woman), respectful of equality in spiritual rights. Failure on his part to honor his obligations will hinder relationships with his wife and God.

Duncan is a member of First Church, Macon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Do right when you do wrong

Leviticus 5:1, 4-5, 14-16; 6:1-7

By Shelby Hazzard

Acknowledge your wrongdoing—Lev. 5:1, 4-5

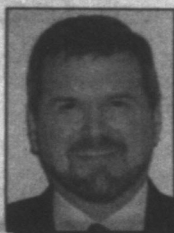
The book of Leviticus provides more explicit instruction to Israel concerning the actual atonement process for sin, outlining five sacrifices: the whole burnt offering, grain offering, sin offering, guilt offering and fellowship offering. The first three were voluntary acts of worship, the last two, were mandatory. A good study Bible will explain the significance of each; here we will look at the sin and guilt offering.

In the first few verses of chapter 5, God specifies that it is sinful to withhold testimony, to not maintain ceremonial purity and to make careless commitments. God was emphasizing to Israel that even if we unknowingly commit these sins, we are still held liable for them, we must not have a "casual attitude,"

toward these actions. (Tidball, Bible Speaks Today, Leviticus, pg 73)

James 4:17 says, *Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.* As modern day American Christians many of us dwell in assemblies that are infected with the virus of silence and denial of wrongdoing. We think that if we just "sweep things under the rug" or "pretend that nothing is wrong," or "constantly blame others," that in time everything will be forgotten and go back to normal. You will not find that taught in Scripture, but you will find it practiced by the Father of Lies.

When we are guilty of these offenses, God's Word is clear, "we must confess our sin" and bring an offering to the Lord. Sin must be acknowledged and dealt with according to God's Word, for if it is not dealt with in



Hazzard

this life, it will be dealt with in the next to our detriment.

Get right with God—Lev. 5:14-16

Verse 14 transitions to the "The Guilt Offering," and "guards the Israelites from falling into the error of believing that grace is cheap. The guilt offering differentiated from the sin offering in that it was concerned with specific sins and included a unique element of preparation as part of the ritual." (Tidball, 84)

There are two categories of sin listed, sacrilege and disobedience, both described as "unintentional." The sin of sacrilege involved the improper use or treatment of the Lord's "Holy things", such as Tabernacle furnishings or offerings and the sin of disobedience was more general, including God's ethical law.

There are no shortcuts with God, even when dealing with "unintentional" sin. When we sin, we must get right with God and the only way this is accomplished is through obedience to

Him, not "pretending it didn't happen." Notice the sacrifices are always brought and presented "to the Lord," because when we sin, we sin against God first.

Eph 1:7-8 says, *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.* Under the New Covenant, there is but one way to get right with God and that is through faith in Christ, however, Christians must always remain freshly aware of any sin from which we need to repent, so that we can continually worship interrupted within the Body of Christ and free of a guilty conscience.

Make restitution where possible—Lev. 6:1-7

Chapter 6 goes deeper into relational sins between people, outlining the severity of deliberate dishonesty and deception. Again the Lord's commands are unmistakable. When someone deliberately deceives someone else, amends must be made if at all possible, "He must make restitution in full."

Christ commanded the exact same action in Matthew 5:23-25 - *Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.* Paul also said in 2 Corinthians 5:20, *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

So the million dollar question for us in the 21st Century assembly is...Since Christ has made the ultimate sacrifice for us, reconciling us to God through His death...why can't we, for the love of our savior, His commands and Kingdom admit our wrongs and be reconciled to our brother or sister and to God?

Search your heart and your mind...stop denying your obvious wrongdoing and go and ask/offer forgiveness and restitution!

Hazzard is minister of evangelism, First Church, Greenville.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JANUARY 21 - 31, 2010

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Pisgah United Methodist Church
Salley Surrena
Stanton Baptist Church, Natchez
Ann Tillson
Golden Cir SSC, FBC
Crystal Springs
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Elizabeth P. Tullos
Mr. Timothy C. Felt
Mr. & Mrs. Doug A. White
Friends at St. Mary's Health Cntr, HLM/Dept
Ms. Wanda J. Smith
Mrs. Felena P. "Snookie" Varnado
Mrs. Jep S. Brock
Haynes Watkins
Mrs. Edna M. Gilliland
Miss Jimmie Weeks
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Larry Willis
Mr. & Mrs. Joel L. Hale
William L. Witcher
Mr. Miguel M. Flechas III
Mr. Mark Winchester
Mrs. Eula Wright
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew

FEBRUARY 1 - 15, 2010

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Linda Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Tripp Thomas

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Jerry & Glenda Fry
Cousin of George Bergold
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Cousin of Rosie Adams
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Mother of Ed Griffin
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Mother of Frances Livingston
Ms. Frances Livingston
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Jerry & Glenda Fry



Good news! The Baptist Children's Village is pleased to report that the construction of The Powell-Walley Campus in Waynesboro, Mississippi is scheduled to be complete by the end of the summer! We so appreciate all of the volunteers who have helped in this project including those recently that helped paint the interior of the cottage. Building a new campus is no small task and we thank all who have been involved. Please take time to view our pictures on our web site or Facebook Fan page.



With the Powell-Walley campus opening soon, we need to begin hiring for the position of Houseparents. This position is the most important in The Baptist Children's Village ministry because these are the people living in the cottage and directly caring for the children. Those who hold this position are our frontline missionaries. It is a great work that only a special few are called to do. We have several Houseparent positions available across the state. If you and your spouse are interested in applying for one of the

new positions at Waynesboro or one of the other openings in Jackson or Brookhaven, please contact Kathy Flournoy by email at kflournoy@baptistchildrensvillage.com or at 601-664-8085.

Houseparents Job Description (Waynesboro, Brookhaven & Jackson*)

10 day-on/5day-off Shift

All positions open to Husband/Wife Team Only

The Baptist Children's Village has an opening for a Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife team, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. Applicants must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff. Houseparents receive a good salary with benefits. A private bedroom and meals are included while on duty.

The primary job responsibility of a Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and/or youth residents. The duties of Houseparents are many and are varied and somewhat dependent upon the specific program and cottage to which assigned. The following list of responsibilities is to provide an overview of the job and is not an exhaustive list.

Job responsibilities:

- Provide immediate supervision of residents in the cottage and other settings
- Participate fully in the implementation of each resident's Plan of Care
- Model Christian values and lifestyle for residents and their families
- Model a healthy physical, social and emotional lifestyle for residents
- Serve as primary caregiver providing meals, doing laundry, helping with home work, etc.
- Serve as the primary transportation resource for residents of assigned cottage and/or campus

Job requirements:

- 25-65 years of age
- Good physical, mental and emotional health
- Stable, even disposition
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Educational background must be at a minimum a high school diploma or GED
- Experience in child rearing is preferred
- Must be flexible and able to work in a team environment
- Able to understand and follow BCV policies, procedures and supervisor instructions
- Good organizational skills

*Position in Jackson is a 7/7 shift.



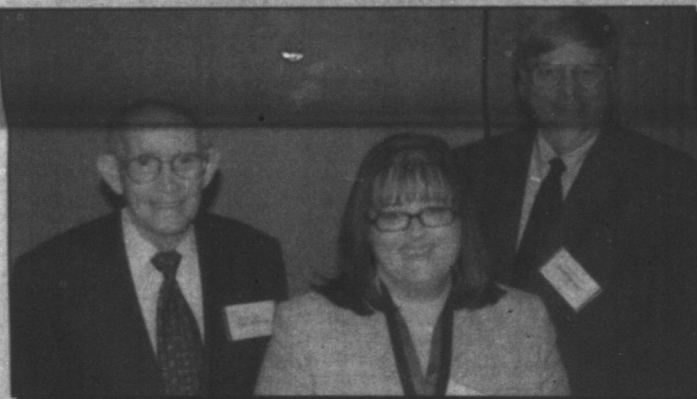
COLLEGE NEWS



1. Orman recognition



2. Wells and Dale



3. Nelson recognition

1. Jim McCay, assistant professor of business; Pamela Harvey Orman, recipient of the William Carey University Circle of Excellence Award from the School of Business; Charles Orman, husband of Pamela; and Cheryl Dale, dean of the school of business, are pictured here following the awards dinner held during Homecoming.

2. William Carey University student Wendy Wells of Hurley and dean of the School of Business Cheryl Dale were recognized for their HEADWAE honors at the William Carey University Convocation held recently on the Hattiesburg campus.

3. Gaston Smith, professor emeritus of mathematics; Anna Holladay Nelson, winner of the William Carey University Circle of Excellence Award from the School of Education; and Barry Morris, dean of the school of education; are shown following the Homecoming Circle of Excellence Awards Dinner.

4. William Carey University students Justin Gunter of Wiggins, Chatinoda Tinago of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Jessica Cofield of Wiggins are the recipients of Jenkins Chastain Citizenship Awards. The highest honor given by the university, it recognizes students who have made the most significant contributions to student and campus life in exemplifying those qualities of citizenship upheld by the university.



4. Gunter, Tinago, and Cofield

5. Blue Mountain College held its BSU Summer Missions commissioning service Apr. 28, with the theme, Be A Fragrant Aroma. Tracy Moser welcomed participants, with several people speaking, singing, praying, and challenging the students. Summer workers include Hannah Easley, Tracy Holland, Lauren McGee, Hayley Pardue, Haley Taylor, Casey Ortner, Brian Blair, Sarah Cox, Kyle

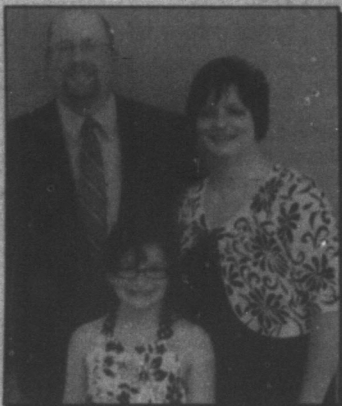
Davis, Cole Edwards, Chris McClure, and Rod Pitts. Summer missionaries include Jacob Blair, Charlie Cisco, Rachel Clark, Lee Davis, Cyle Haulcomb, Chelsea Jones, Bartley Nethery, Jordan Norris, Michal Roberson, Tuesdae Rowland, Hanna Sizemore, Logan Strachan, and Emmanuel Bland. Others serving are Chelsea Funderburk and Christian Russell.

STAFF CHANGES

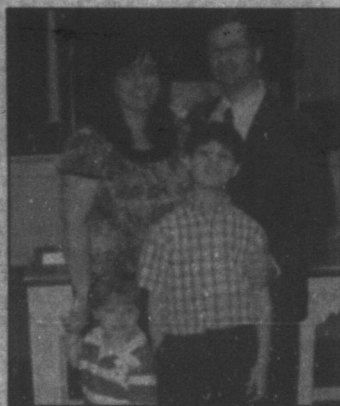
Meadville Church, Meadville, has called Johnny Bowlin as pastor, effective Apr. 18. He is an Alabama native, a graduate of New Orleans Seminary, and formerly served Arm Church, Lawrence Association. He is shown with his wife, Melinda, and daughter, Gracie.

Calvary Church, Greenville, has called Greg Lassett as pastor. He and his wife, Jasmine, have two boys, Camren and Cooper. He is a native of Indianola and a graduate of Mid-America Seminary.

Park Haven Church, Laurel, welcomes its new pastor, Tom Cheeks, and his wife, Vicky.



6. The Bowlins



6. The Lassetts



6. The Cheeks

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